**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- Master’s degree. Transcripts from all previous programs/degrees are considered.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Statement of research interest.
- C.V. highlighting scholarly outputs and work experiences.
- If English is not your native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, reading, and listening. You will need (1) a total TOEFL (paper-based) score of at least 600, or (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score) or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

**KEY DATES & DEADLINES**
- Application due: January 31 (Domestic & International students), which must include all supporting documents. However, late applications may be considered on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.
- Notification of acceptance: March.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

**What about FUNDING?**

Doctoral students in the Geography program are guaranteed minimum funding of $18,000 per year for four years. Minimum funding levels are, however, generally higher than the guaranteed minimum. International students will be provided with an additional $5,000 per year for four years. Minimum funding levels are, however, generally higher than the guaranteed minimum. International students will be provided with an additional $5,000 per year to help offset higher tuition costs. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards and teaching assistanceships. Additional funding is highly likely.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOGRAPHY?**

Explore critical questions about our environment and our society as you develop research skills. Study with award-winning faculty in an interdisciplinary department that combines fundamental analysis and research with practical, applied approaches to planning and implementation.

“Geography gave me the support I needed. I was able to take a complex project and really run with it.”

— Dr Sarah de Leeuw, PhD

**Why QUEENS?**

The Department of Geography and Planning at Queen’s University offers a comprehensive graduate program based on innovative research and strong collaboration between faculty and graduate students. Our specialized Earth System Science labs include GIS and remote-sensing labs equipped with a wide range of the latest software and hardware, and facilities with the latest field equipment and laboratory instrumentation. In human geography, we provide strong support for fieldwork that engages topics of public interest from the community to the national and international scale. Many of our students work on questions of global significance, including development projects in Latin America or Africa, ecological change in the Arctic or the relationship between international migration and human rights. We provide a place for graduate students to learn and excel within a vibrant and supportive intellectual community.

**Program STRUCTURE**

**PhD (4 years):** 3 courses (including GPHY 801), qualifying exam, dissertation and oral defence.

**GRADUATE STUDIES**

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies
DOB: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

YEAR I

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, developing your research proposal, and preparing for your qualifying exam.
- Meet with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for support.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in our Geography Colloquium and in other departments such as ENRD Policy Studies, and Environmental Studies.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with human or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Join the departmental Graduate Student Council and seek ways to get involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CTRC, and the SGS Blog Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston, the Fringe Arch Biosphere Reserve, or with Kingston Community Health Centres.
- Take advantage of the numerous facilities and laboratories and learn what research is occurring in the various departmental research groups.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Geographers.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? Or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Annual Meeting or the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Present your work at academic conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Start a research blog or build a website.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SG5001 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- If pursuing research abroad, investigate options for support such as the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG).
- Join groups on LinkedIn for specific careers or topics of interest.
- Get involved in student or young researchers organizations (e.g. through the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU), CAG, and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists [APECS]).

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum.” For more information check out Career Counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR III

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue to present at conferences and Emerging speakers series.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre to learn how to speak to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Extend professional involvement on committees and in the community.
- Join CAG and AAG specialty group committees.
- Increase community engagement through the PhD, Community Initiative.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Expand your research network by connecting with researchers through social media, at conferences, or through LinkedIn.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre to learn how to speak to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting or GeoConvention.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Participate in hiring committees if possible and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest, craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Sustainable Kingston, the Fringe Arch Biosphere Reserve, or with Kingston Community Health Centres.
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- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!